

may be true that he cannot demand and obtain possession of the plate, but neither can the operator have an unlimited user. In reality, therefore, there is a joint ownership: the operator having perhaps the right to possession with a limited user as per contract, while the patient has a supervisory interest in the plate.

See the following cases:

- Am. Mutoscope Biograph Co. v. Edison Mfg. Co., 137 F. 262.  
 Itzrovitch v. Whitaker, 39 So., 499; 115 La., 479; 1 L. R. A., 1147.  
 Schulman v. Idem, 39 So., 707; 115 La., 628.  
 In re Whitaker Idem.  
 Burrow-Giles Lith. Co. v. Sarony, 111 U. S., 53.  
 Thornton v. Schrieber, 124 U. S., 612.  
 Nottager v. Jackson, 11 Q. B. Div., 627.

### A TUBERCULOSIS STORY.

By E. M. BROWN, M. D.

A rancher living near Selma, Calif., following exposure, developed a severe bronchitis and in November of last year he lost his voice.

Thereupon, he rented his little farm, and with the money from this income he journeyed south in search of health. Note that no one, when he is able to get away, ever seeks health at home; it must be ever, like the will-o'-the-wisp, just a little farther on.

So the rancher arrived in Los Angeles.

It is difficult for any one, when tuberculosis cannot be called by some other name, to obtain lodging in our city; not because their money is covered with "disease germs," for here, as elsewhere, we take money from any one without question. It has a value too alluring to be refused, even by the most fastidious. The difficulty lies in the fear of losing still more money by the loss of other roomers who may leave because a "lunger" is in their midst.

Never mind the fact that most of the other lodgers are health seekers also, theirs may not be so apparent, and asthma, bronchitis, stomach-cough, water brash and catarrh have not the villainous sound that tuberculosis has to most of us.

Our rancher's first stopping place was the Hotel R—, where he lived for two weeks; then the air of this small hotel room not producing the desired beneficial effects hoped for, he took lodgings at F street, where he lived three months, but health still beckoned, so he decided the ——— Hotel on Pasadena avenue had a more salubrious atmosphere and remained there three weeks before he became convinced that his throat was no better and moved out to Glendale and tried the sanitarium there for two weeks.

Here, for the first time in his wanderings, was he properly instructed in matters of personal hygiene, told how he could avoid infecting others, and made to feel that he really was not pariah, but a man more unfortunate, as far as his condition was concerned, than most others, while being far less dangerous because properly instructed.

The expense of sanitarium life was prohibitive, so he returned to his former rooming place at F street, remained there eighteen days, and then on medical advice went to the County Hospital. He was able to remain there but eight days because of the villainous food offered him, and the progressive loss in weight hustled him out. He took a room at Highland Park, but the landlady fired him after two days because she was afraid of his condition. So, once more he moved into town, to the ——— Hotel, where after one week he gave up his search for health and returned to his ranch in Selma.

Who followed him in those eight different beds occupied while in our beautiful city?

Sputum examination showed an average of five tubercle bacilli per field. How many people did he infect before he was properly instructed?

Who is to blame?

The rancher, because he came south in search of health?

The landladies who received him?

The doctor who told him he had bronchitis?

The health officer, for not meeting him at the train?

The commonwealth of California for neglect?

All of us for our indifference?

You answer, when you are sure you are right.

### DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Edited by FRED I. LACKENBACH.

(Devoted to the advancement of Pharmacy and its allied branches; to the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, and to matters of interest bearing upon the therapeutic agents offered to the medical profession. The editor will gladly supply available information on matters coming within the scope of this Department.)

### NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES.

Since publication of New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1916, and in addition to those previously reported, the following articles have been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for inclusion with "New and Nonofficial Remedies":

Styracol Tablets, 5 Grains.—Each tablet contains 5 grains styracol. Merck and Co., New York.

Tannalbin Tablets, 5 Grains.—Each tablet contains 5 grains tannalbin. Merck and Co., New York.

Stanolind Liquid Paraffin.—A non-proprietary brand of liquid petrolatum, complying with the standards of the U. S. P., 8th ed. and made from American petroleum. Standard Oil Company of Indiana, Chicago (Jour. A. M. A., April 1, 1916, p. 1027).

### Items of Interest.

Emetin Hydrochlorid Variable.—It should not be taken for granted that because a drug bears the name of a definite compound it is true to name and pure, and therefore trustworthy in its action. This fact has recently been demonstrated in regard to emetin hydrochlorid. Two cases in which the administration of emetin hydrochlorid produced symptoms of poisoning (one terminating fatally) at the Johns Hopkins Medical Clinic led to an investigation by R. L. Levy and L. G. Rowntree in which the emetin hydrochlorid preparations of five pharmaceutical houses were used. This investigation led to the conclusion that the products supplied as emetin hydrochlorid are variable in composition and in toxicity to a degree which constitutes a serious danger. It behooves physicians to insist on some declaration from the firm supplying emetin hydrochlorid as to its purity and as to the standard employed. Levy and Rowntree emphasize also the fact that emetin hydrochlorid medication itself is not an innocuous procedure. To avoid the toxic effects of emetin, the dosage should be carefully adjusted for each individual, and the treatment should be given in courses at intervals of several days or a week. The subcutaneous method of administration is to be preferred (The Archives of Internal Medicine, March 15, 1916, p. 420).

Emetic Action of Strophanthus Not Due to Oil.—Hatcher and Eggleston have shown that the digitalis bodies produce nausea and vomiting through action on the medulla and that the direct action on the mucous membrane of the stomach is unimportant. They demonstrated that the fixed oil (fat) of digitalis produced no action and conclude therefore that attempts to avoid the emetic action of digitalis by removal of oil from digitalis preparations is of no avail. Similarly Hatcher has recently determined that the oil contained in strophanthus is not the cause of the nausea sometimes produced by this drug. While removal of the oil renders tincture of strophanthus more "elegant" pharmaceutically, such removal is of no

therapeutic importance (Jour. A. M. A., April 15, 1916, p. 1199).

Piperazin, Lysidin, Lithium Carbonate, Sodium Bicarbonate and Sodium Citrate as Uric Acid Solvents.—H. D. Haskins has studied the uric acid solvent power of urine of persons taking the various substances classed as uric acid solvents. The investigation led to the following conclusions: 1.—Piperazin can cause the urine to dissolve more uric acid than it would without the drug, and this effect is most marked if sodium citrate or bicarbonate be also given and if diuresis be avoided. 2.—Lysidin can act as a uric acid solvent but is not a practical therapeutic agent because of the large doses required. 3.—Lithium carbonate is a uric acid solvent if large enough doses are used, but is unsafe and possesses no advantage over sodium citrate or bicarbonate. 4.—Sodium citrate and bicarbonate are reliable and satisfactory uric acid dissolving agents when given in such dosage as to keep the urine alkaline (The Archives of Internal Medicine, March 15, 1916, p. 405).

Prescribing of Narcotics.—The Harrison Antinarcotic law exempts from its operations ready-made mixtures containing specified small quantities of narcotics, but requires physicians' prescriptions containing small amounts of narcotics to be registered. The law should be made consistent by requiring the registration of all prescriptions containing narcotics in any amount. The inconsistency in the law should be removed prohibiting absolutely the sale, except on a physician's prescription, of preparations containing narcotics in any proportion. The continued uses of small doses of a narcotic drug is just as capable of establishing the habit as is the use of larger doses (Jour. A. M. A., April 8, 1916, p. 1158).

Why Glycerophosphates?—The glycerophosphates are split up in the intestines into ordinary phosphates and absorbed and utilized, if they are utilized at all. There is no evidence that glycerophosphates have any pharmacologic action to warrant the belief that they are of use as therapeutic agents. The belief in their value is kept alive by the promotion of certain proprietary mixtures. The glycerophosphates will be continued to be manufactured until physicians refuse to prescribe them. A manufacturer has even substituted glycerophosphates for the potent yellow phosphorus in his elixir of phosphorus, nux vomica and damiana and, so his chemist reports, physicians continue to prescribe the proprietary the composition of which has been altered (Jour. A. M. A., April 15, 1916, p. 1205).

A Much Needed Pharmacologic Investigation.—J. D. Pilcher, University of Nebraska College of Medicine, has investigated the action on the uterus of the guinea pig of a number of drugs which are widely used as ingredients of proprietary "female remedies," and which so far have been little, or not at all, studied. Blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) showed a variable tonic effect. Pulsatilla (*Anemone pulsatilla* or *Pulsatilla pratensis*), unicorn root (*Aletris farinosa*), figwort (*Scrophularia marylandica*), valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) and skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*) were more or less depressant. The following drugs gave negative results: cramp bark (*Viburnum opulus*), black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*), swamp maple (*Acer spicatum*), false unicorn (*Chamaelirium luteum* or *Helonias dioica*), liferoot (*Senecio aureus*), wild yam (*Dioscorea villosa*), motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*), passion flower (*Passiflora incarnata*) and squaw vine (*Mitchella repens*). It is to be hoped that Pilcher's work will permit the formation of an opinion as to the therapeutic value of those drugs in which some degree of activity has been found (Jour. A. M. A., April 15, 1916, p. 1205).

Diarsenol.—Dr. E. H. Martin, Hot Springs, Ark., reports that, after giving several hundred doses of Diarsenol without any bad effects whatever, he had two cases in which nausea, vomiting and symp-

toms of apparent collapse such as have been previously reported by another writer. He found on investigation that the specimens which in his hands gave untoward results as well as those previously reported on and two further accidents were all due to a product bearing the same lot number (Jour. A. M. A., April 8, 1916, p. 1155).

Elixir Calcylates Compound.—Each dessertspoonful of this specialty is said to contain the "equivalent of" Calcylates (calcium and strontium disalicylate) 5 grains, resin of guaiac  $\frac{1}{2}$  grain, powdered digitalis leaves  $\frac{1}{4}$  grain, powdered squill  $\frac{1}{4}$  grain, extract of colchicum seed  $\frac{1}{4}$  grain, cascara 1-16 grain, aromatics. One or two dessertspoonfuls are to be taken three to four times a day. The mixture is to be given in cases of "rheumatism, lumbago, neuralgia, sciatica, etc." If a salicylate is indicated it should be given in sufficient amount in the form of sodium salicylate; the patient should not be given a preparation containing ingredients in the way of guaiac, squill and colchicum which are not needed. Digitalis is rarely indicated in inflammatory rheumatism and it should never be given in a multiple mixture (Jour. A. M. A., April 22, 1916, p. 1307).

Cactus Compound Pills.—A pharmaceutical firm makes Pills Cactus Compound (Heart Tonic) each of which is said to contain: "Cactus grandiflora  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr., Sparteine sulphate 1-40 gr., Digitalin, pure (German) 1-125 gr., Strychnine sulphate 1-500 gr., Glonoin (nitroglycerin) 1-500 gr., Strophanthin 1-5000 gr." The combination is irrational and the dosage of the individual drugs, in most instances, absurdly small. Every one of the ingredients except digitalin may be disregarded either because of inertness or because of the small amount present, and the treatment then becomes one of digitalis. The selling name of "Cactus Compound" is a misnomer as the activity of the pill is that of the small dose of the digitalis glucoside. The pill is an illustration of how worthless drugs are perpetuated. At one time it was thought that cactus had therapeutic value. During that time many "specialties" and proprietaries bearing its name were put on the market. Although the drug is now known to be worthless, these specialties continue to be sold (Jour. A. M. A., April 29, 1916, p. 1387).

## ANOTHER RAP AT THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(From the Journal of Maine Medical Association.)

The following joint resolution has been introduced by Senator John D. Works, of California:

Whereas, The American Medical Association is a national organization of physicians and surgeons of one school of medicine only and intended to advance the personal and private interests of its members; and

Whereas, One of the objects of said Association actively and aggressively prosecuted is to procure legislation, state and national, in the interest of the school of medicine represented by it and against all others; and

Whereas, The Public Health Service of the United States is intended to represent all classes of people of all medical or non-medical beliefs in national and interstate affairs; and

Whereas, The surgeon general of the Public Health Service has been elected president of the said Association and other officers of the Service have become members thereof; and

Whereas, It is believed that the best interests of the Public Health Service and of the people require that its officials and employees be free from influence or control by any school of medicine, or mode of healing; now, therefore,

Resolved, That it shall be unlawful for any officer or employee of the Public Health Service of the government to be or become a member or officer of, or in any way connected with, any medical or private health association or organization of any kind.